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25X1X ( ) Comment. One of the ten Vietnamese students now in Bangkok ( ) 25X1A  
 25X1A ( ) has prepared two articles in English on "Viet Nam Youth". He stated  
 that he intended to send these articles to "the Youth Movement in Prague, for  
 publication in their magazine." ( ) Comment. Following are excerpts 25X1A  
 taken from rough drafts of the two articles. Despite the obvious propaganda  
 intent, the information is considered possibly true.)

## A. Peasant Youth in the Resistance

1. The part of the young peasants in the Resistance is extremely important. They throw themselves fiercely into Resistance life. They enter the "Association of Peasants for National Salvation", a peasant mass organization. Besides the tens of thousands of them who enlist in the national regular Army, they constitute units of partisans and guerrillas in every village. We shall pay attention to the partisans and guerrilla troops because, in Vietnamese strategy, they are very essential to the final victory. The partisans are divided into two categories: the self-defense partisans and the guerrillas. All are organized hierarchically and placed under the command of the General Headquarters of the Viet Nam Army. The activities of the self-defense partisans are manifold: food supplies, information, communication, transportation, sabotage, and the building of defensive field works.
2. The realization of the scorched earth policy is of primary importance in the Vietnamese resistance. In order to stop the enemy's advance, the Vietnamese people do not regret destroying anything that would be of use to the enemy. The young peasants have thrown themselves into this job with ardor and enthusiasm. They have worked day and night, dividing themselves into small competing groups. Within a few weeks, apart from some cities where there was not enough time to undertake the destruction, all cities that were possible bases for the enemy were destroyed. The destruction of lines of communication, roads and railways was equally important. We must prevent the enemy from utilizing them for the circulation of their motorized troops. In addition, destruction of the enemy's economy is important. Great stocks of rice have been burned and three fourths of the Indochinese rubber plantations have been destroyed. In the first months of the Resistance the removal of plants, chiefly ammunition factories, toward safer zones was of the utmost urgency. In a few months, with the aid of peasant youth, more than 10,000 tons of machinery were carried from the delta to the upper regions.

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3. The guerrillas are especially trained for the fight. Every village, every hamlet has its group of guerrillas. They go to the fight mostly with only rudimentary weapons: grenade, mines, swords, old rifles, bows. These guerrilla actions and ambushes form the basis of the national Resistance. They make it easy for the Vietnamese Army to launch larger scale operations with the annihilation of whole enemy battalions as a result. At the same time, guerrilla fighting is the best way of training new recruits for the National Army. Many groups of guerrillas, after a few months of fighting, become strong units of the National Army, well-equipped with modern weapons captured from the enemy.
4. Every village is a stronghold. Wherever they go, the French soldiers plunder the villages, slaughter the inhabitants, rape the women and girls. The job of defending the villages and protecting the lives and riches of the inhabitants is entrusted to the young peasants. The slogan of "Every village is a stronghold" has been launched and the young do their best to realize it. They begin by barricading the principal entrances of the village and by fortifying the bamboo hedge in the shadow of which the village is nestled. Secret trenches and communicating causeways are dug. When the enemy comes to plunder the village the guerrillas are there to drive them back. We call these villages "resistance villages". The history of "resistance villages" has been decisive in stopping the extension of the control over the Vietnamese countryside by the French Army. Even in neighborhoods of cities occupied by the French the inhabitants go on tilling their fields before the enemy's nose.
5. The campaign for increased production has been an immense victory over the French aggressors who expected to force the Vietnamese people to surrender by starvation. They have employed every means to destroy our crops and to prevent our peasants from tilling their fields. But, answering an appeal made by President Ho Chi Minh, the peasants from the North to the South are endeavoring to extend the tilled areas. The young peasants are everywhere zealous promoters in this campaign. The result is that, after two and a half years of resistance, there has been no starvation, the price of rice has not been raised; on the contrary, our countryside is now much better off than in peacetime under French domination.
6. If Peasant Youth has thrown itself resolutely into the struggle to defend the country, it is due to the fact that the new regime has brought to it a new life where it enjoys all Democratic liberties, electoral franchise at the age of eighteen, and special attention paid by the State to the formation and development of youth. Owing to various circumstances, above all the war, the agrarian reforms thought of by the Government could not be fully realized. Because of lack of funds no substantial help could be given the peasants. Even if the plans for the division of lands have been drawn up, the war has made it impossible for them to be carried out.

#### B. The Fighting Villages in Viet Nam

7. The Vietnamese, the majority of whom are farmers and planters, used to build their villages in the middle of their rice fields, generally far away from the highways. A village is an agglomeration of houses, for the major part, built of mud-walls and covered with a thatch roof. The whole village is surrounded by thick green hedges of bamboo. Numerous zigzagging paths, also with bamboo hedges on the sides, lead from one house to another. The population is high with 200 to 300 persons in a village of less than 20 hectares of land. The villages are usually built side by side. They look like small islands of verdure among the rice fields. The labyrinth of their torturous roads are so complicated that often people familiar with them get lost.
8. The French occupy the towns, generally razed to the ground by the scorched-earth

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policy, but they are incessantly trying to extend their grip over the countryside. It is then necessary that each village becomes a combat unit capable of supplying men and food to the Resistance army. When a village is far from the battlefield, it gives shelter to the different departments of public services; when near the battlefields, it provides food, lodging, and information concerning the enemy to the troops passing by or remaining in the area. The villages which border the occupied cities or strategic highways controlled by the French are subjected to almost daily attacks. The enemy makes a desperate effort to conquer them with a view to: create a zone of security capable of protecting their positions and means of communication; to insure their food supplies to the detriment of the villagers; to recruit manual labor necessary to their military needs; to collect young girls and young women to "uplift the morale" of the troops. The Vietnamese Resistance must make it a duty to destroy all the enemy's patient plans and devices. The rational organization of the fight in the villages, especially those which are adjacent to the enemy's positions, is of prime importance.

9. Before the war started in Viet Nam the people, knowing beforehand that the aggression of the enemy would be brutal and ruthless, created an army of partisans in each village. These partisans were armed more with courage and a spirit of sacrifice than with arms, ammunitions, and an efficient military technique. Complicated systems of defense made of mud and bamboo were erected with great pains. Sometimes people would hang baskets full of quicklime amidst the branches of the trees and then they would empty the baskets over the heads of the enemy, blind their eyes and make them run for their lives, leaving behind their arms and ammunition. At the beginning of the invasion, though armed with a high fighting spirit, the villagers were unable to stop the advances of the enemy who had powerful weapons. It was only after terrible and painful experiences that the people realized the necessity of evacuating at the approach of the enemy. Before leaving the villagers hide everything they can, burn down everything else, and carry with them only a small basket containing the necessities of life. When the enemy arrives they find only a deserted and ruined place.
10. The first duty of a fighting village is to stop the advance of the tanks, half-tracks, and jeeps of the enemy. Experiences show that strong barricades are not efficient enough. The villagers have to content themselves with digging rectangular ditches one meter wide by 60 centimeters deep and at one to two meters from one another on the surface of a roadway. These succeed very well in stopping the advance of enemy vehicles.
11. The hedges of the village are fortified and its gate barricaded and closed. One gets into the village through secret entrances which are constantly watched and are changed from time to time. Along the hedges, at the most unexpected places, the villagers build machine gun nests and individual trenches. From these well-camouflaged positions they can, without risk, shoot at those enemy soldiers who are daring enough to approach the village. Well constructed underground passages lead from one village to another and from house to house.
12. When prepared for combat the fighting village was able to drive away the many enemy attacks and protect the inhabitants and crops. When an enemy patrol encounters a well guarded village they immediately withdraw from it and from a safe distance they send in a few mortar shells to take revenge.
13. The watchword "Each village must be a fortress" has been issued since the

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the outbreak of the war. But it was not fully put into effect until March 1947 when the French, having occupied a few cities, began to attack the neighboring villages. The atrocities experienced by the villagers have taught them how to organize their fight to tackle the enemy's offensive. The village fortress was born in fire and blood. The summer of 1948 has witnessed the full realization of the previously mentioned watchword.

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